Institute as Director, the Committee recommended his appointment. Government then approved of this recommendation keeping in view his past performance as Director, Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports and his qualifications and experience in the field of sports coaching and training. Subsequently, in 1983, the SNIPES Board renewed his contract for a further period of 3 years from 1st December, 1983.

**Nicotine not a cause of cancer**

*138. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn o a news item published in 'Statesman' of 21st July, 1986 wherein it has been stated that not nicotine but Tobacco Specific Nitrosamines is the main agent involved in causing cancer, as per researchers at Cancer Research Institute; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to remove the statutory warning to his effect from the advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The finding, that nicotine *per se* is not tumorogenic and that during the processing, burning and ingestion of tobacco nicotine, through a process of nitrosation ,changes into TSNAS (Tobacco Specific Nitrosamines) which is carcinogenic, does not in any way conflict with the statutory warning that "Smoking is injurious to Health".

**Death of Neurosurgery patients in AIIMS**

*139. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifty per cent of the patients of neurosurgery in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS) New Delhi, die before they get appointment with doctors;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard pertaining to 1984, 1985 and 1986 so far; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) Every patient who comes to seek a consultation in Neurosurgery Department is examied in the OPD which is held three times a week. No patient is refused consultation. Patients coming to casualty are seen immediately.

With the limitation of the existing facilities it is, however, not possible to admit all those requiring hospitalization. They are given appointments ranging between 4 weeks to 12 weeks depending upon the seriousness of the disease. It has been noticed that approximately 75 per cent to 85 per cent of these patients report for admission on the scheduled dates. Out of the remaining, some seek admission in other hospitals of Delhi where neurosurgical facilities are available. It is possible that a few patients who do not report back to the Institute might have died. The figures of such deaths are not available.

Action has been initiated to expand the existing facilities. The Neuro-sur-

gery OPD which used to function once a week has started operating thrice a week. The bed strength of the neuro-surgery department is being increased in a phased manner from 39 to 180 including 15 to 20 intensive care beds. Once the proposed expansion programme is completed the waiting time for admission is likely to come down to a considerable extent.

**"पैलेस आन व्हील्स" रेलगाड़ी**

*140. **श्री रामसिंहभाई पातलियाभाई राठवा** : क्या **रेल** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या "पैलेस आन व्हील्स" रेलगाड़ी वर्ष-प्रति वर्ष घाटे में चल रही है, यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के संगत आंकड़े क्या है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है,

(ग) इसमें कुल कितनी बर्थस है और यह कितनी सवारियां ले जा सकती है और औसतन पिछले तीन वर्षों में इससे कितनी सवारियां ले जाई गई ;

(घ) क्या पहले इस रेलगाड़ी में केवल विदेशी पर्यटक ही सफर कर सकते थे और अब भारतीय पर्यटकों को भी यात्रा करने की अनुमति दे दी गई है, यदि हां, तो यह अनुमति कब से दी गई है , और

(ङ) क्या इस रेलगाड़ी में मद्य-पान की अनुमति है ?

**रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया)** : (क) जी हां । इस गाड़ी के सम्बन्ध में हुई हानि के पिछले तीन वर्ष के आंकड़े नीचे दिये गये है —

(लाख रुपये)

| वर्ष | हानि की राशि |
|---|---|
| 1983–84 | 19 87 |
| 1984–85 | 24 66 |
| 1985–86 . . . | 29 48 |

(ख) हानि, गाड़ी की क्षमता के अपर्याप्त उपयोग के कारण हुई है जिस पर रेलवे का कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है क्योंकि इस गाड़ी के सम्बन्ध में विपणन प्रचार तथा बुकिंग की जिम्मेदारी राजस्थान पर्यटन विकास निगम की है ।

(ग) इस गाड़ी में उपलब्ध शायिकाओं की कुल संख्या 98 है । पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान अर्थात् 1983–84 से 1985–86 तक की अवधि में प्रति फेरा ले जाये गये यात्रियों की औसत संख्या क्रमश 37, 37 तथा 44 थी ।

(घ) इस गाड़ी में भारतीय पर्यटकों द्वारा यात्रा करने पर कभी कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं रहा है ।

(ङ) जी हां ।

**Smuggling of goods from cargo complex at Indira Gandhi International Airport**

@861. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to press reports regarding smuggling of goods worth crores of rupees without paying any customs duty or completing other legal formalities from cargo complex at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter,

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry; and

(e) what are the particulars of persons found involved and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

@Previously Unstarred Question 128, transferred from the 4th November, 1986.